



## Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

### **Sanctuary Advisory Council**

#### *Fifty-third Meeting*

Thursday, June 12, 2008

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Honolulu International Airport

Inter-Island Conference Center

### **FINAL MINUTES**

#### **NON-GOVERNMENT** (Voting)

Dale Sarver  
*Business and Commerce*

David Hoffman  
*Citizen-At-Large*

Terry O' Halloran  
*Commercial Shipping*

Louis M. Herman, Ph.D.  
*Conservation*

Liz Kumabe  
*Education*

Robert Bruck  
*Fishing*

Luana Howell  
*Hawai'i County*

William A. Friedl  
*Honolulu County*

James Yamamoto  
*Kaua'i County*

Cheryl Sterling  
*Maui County*

Pohai Kirkland  
*Native Hawaiian*

Teri Leicher  
*Ocean Recreation*

Adam Pack, Ph.D.  
*Research*

Michael Stanton  
*Tourism*

James E. Coon  
*Whale Watching*

#### **GOVERNMENT**

Marnie Meyer  
*DBEDT - OP*

Elizabeth Corbin  
*DBEDT Ocean Resources*

Athline M. Clark  
*DLNR - DAR*

Vacant  
*DOH*

Dean Watase  
*DOT - Harbors*

Vacant  
*Fagatele Bay NMS*

Jerry B. Norris  
*OHA-Voting*

Tom Friel  
*NMFS - Law Enforcement*

Chris Yates  
*NMFS - PIRO*

Aulani Wilhelm  
*NWHI Reserve*

Eric Kingma  
*WESPAC-Voting*

Cindy Barger  
*US ACOE*

LCDR Mark Young  
*US Coast Guard*

Rebecca Hommon  
*US Navy*

### **Attendance**

#### *Primary Council Members Present:*

Bob Bruck, Bill Friedl, Lou Herman, David Hoffman, Luana Howell, Eric Kingma, Liz Kumabe, Teri Leicher, Naomi McIntosh, Marnie Meyer, Terry O'Halloran, Adam Pack, Jeff Pollack, Dale Sarver, Mike Stanton, Cheryl Sterling, Jeff Walters, James Yamamoto, Mark Young

#### *Alternate Council Members Present:*

Reg White (for Jim Coon), Janice Fukawa (for Becky Hommon), Kathy Yim (for Liz Corbin)

#### *Excused:*

Cindy Barger, Jackie Burke, Athline Clark, Jim Coon, Liz Corbin, Becky Hommon, Pohai Kirkland, Jerry Norris, Aulani Wilhelm, Chris Yates  
Seat vacant for Department of Health and Fagatele Bay NMS

#### *Others Present:*

HIHWNMS: Christine Brammer, Dam Midyett, Paul Wong

MBNMS: Paul Michel

USCG: Eric Roberts

Dr. Joe Mobley

### **Distributed Materials**

- Meeting #53 Information Packet
  - Table of Contents
  - Meeting Agenda
  - Action Items Report
  - Chair's Report
  - Sanctuary Manager's Report
  - Hawai'i County Report
  - Kaua'i County Report
  - Maui County Report
  - Conservation Committee Report
  - Education Committee Report
  - Research Committee Report
  - Aquaculture Working Group Report

- Blue Seas, Green Communities Working Group Report
- Meeting #52 Draft Minutes (March 13, 2008)
- Additional Materials Available (Optional)
  - Site Atlas of the National Marine Sanctuary System
  - Sanctuary Watch – Winter 2008
  - Our National Marine Sanctuaries – 2007 Accomplishments Report
  - Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Public Meeting Announcement

### **Call to Order**

*This council meeting will focus on providing updates on the 2007-2008 whale season and other ongoing projects.*

Council Chair Bill Friedl called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. Teri Leicher then took role.

Cheryl Sterling made a motion to change the order of the agenda by moving Joe Mobley's report to the beginning of the meeting. Bob Bruck seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes from the council's March 13, 2008 were distributed for comments. Lou Herman moved to approve the minutes and Mike Stanton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as issued.

### **Public Forum**

Bill Friedl asked the members of the public to introduce themselves and called for any public comments.

Bill Friedl requested that members of the public or others attending the meeting introduce themselves. Introductions included guest presenters Dr. Joe Mobley and Paul Michel; Agency representatives Eric Roberts (USCG) and Janice Fukawa (U.S. Navy); and HIHWNMS staff members Paul Wong and Dam Midyett.

### **Humpback Whale Aerial Survey Presentation – Dr. Joe Mobley**

Dr. Mobley provided a detailed presentation on aerial surveys that have been conducted in the Hawaiian Islands. The first aerial survey was conducted in 1978. Aerial surveys are conducted to assess distribution and abundance of marine mammals. Seventeen species have been observed from aerial surveys. Dr. Mobley is involved in a variety of projects, including those related to acoustics.

There is a need for funding to conduct additional aerial surveys. Aerial survey results would be beneficial during the management plan review process.

Naomi McIntosh stated that there is a need for a \$100,000 match for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant that has been submitted. The project would collect information on marine debris and marine mammals.

Terry O'Halloran asked if a letter of support from the Council would be helpful. This item was added to new business.

Bill Friedl inquired as to whether there was any plan to extend the work into the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM). Dr. Mobley replied that there is a plan but it would involve a larger plane.

Aircraft remote sensing capabilities were discussed. Dr. Mobley emphasized that in the case of marine mammals nothing can currently top visual detection.

### **Discussion on Reports and Updates**

#### **Chair's Report:**

Bill Friedl submitted a written report (see attachment 1). He discussed his participation in the recent Council Chairs and Coordinators meeting that was held in Newport News, Virginia in May. He also discussed the policy development that will move the program forward and emphasized that the expectation is that the council will be involved. The Council can play a vital role by attending meetings, communicating with Congress, etc. He mentioned the west coast sanctuaries and the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary as programs that have had national impact. He also emphasized the connection within the region (both the HIHWNMS and the PMNM have whales and seals) and encouraged more communication.

#### **Sanctuary Manager:**

Naomi McIntosh submitted a written report (see attachment 2). She thanked Bill for attending the meeting in Newport News. She discussed the recent release of results of the Structures of Population, Levels of Abundance and Status of Humpback whales (SPLASH) research project. The photo identification work was published and the population appears to be recovering. Naomi discussed a SPLASH symposium that will be held in the future as well as the First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas which the sanctuary will host. She mentioned that David Mattila is currently attending the International Whale Commission (IWC) meeting and many participants are excited about the conference. She also discussed the hearing on the National Marine Sanctuaries Act reauthorization bill. Sanctuary Partner MaryLou Foley, who works for Outrigger Hotels, was invited to testify. Bill Friedl asked Naomi to distribute any further information on the bill and opportunities to testify to the Council following the meeting.

Naomi introduced a new partnership with Grammy award winning musician Daniel Ho. Daniel produced an original slack key guitar composition and is in the process of compiling a cd of Hawaiian music entitled "One Ocean" which will be a fundraiser. In addition, local artist and clothing designer Sig Zane created an original design for the year of the reef and a portion of proceeds from that design will go towards the sanctuary.

In response to Naomi's report, Eric Kingma inquired whether the sanctuary is in support of the current reauthorization bill. Naomi stated that she was unsure of the version of the document because it has been awhile since the reauthorization was reviewed. Paul Michel mentioned that you can watch the hearing live on the internet.

**Sanctuary Co-Manager:**

Sanctuary Co-Manager, Dr. Jeffrey Walters, did not submit a written report. He discussed the work that the state has been doing related to Hawaiian monk seals. He and the state staff have been working to wrap-up whale season and there is a marine mammal responders conference going on now at which the Lt Governor is signing the bill to officially make the monk seal the state mammal. He reported that \$97,000 was expected to be added to his budget to cover work on an incidental take permit for monk seals and sea turtles in state managed fisheries. Those funds do not cover core state sanctuary staff. They are only to cover the monk seal staff.

Eric Kingma mentioned that the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center has developed a program to distribute barbless hooks which will hopefully reduce hookings of monk seals.

Jeff stated that Governor Lingle is preparing to send a letter to the council that highlights the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) support of the management plan review process.

**Hawai'i County:**

Luana "Nan" Howell, Hawai'i County Representative, submitted a written report (see attachment 3). She discussed the monk seal monitoring that has been taking place on the Big Island and also discussed Coral Reef Awareness Day and stated that she is trying to make more connections with the east side of the island to be able to better report on what's happening on overall. She has been attending fisheries council meetings and assisting with marine mammal responses as well.

Ter Leicher mentioned the development of a volunteer standards program for the Big Island. Updates from Justin Viezbicke, Hawaii Programs Coordinator were also provided in Nan's report.

**Honolulu County:**

Bill Friedl, Council Chair and Honolulu County Representative, did not submit a written report; however, he informed the council that he participated in the Sanctuary Ocean Count at Turtle Bay and that the project was a success again this year.

**Kauai County:**

James Yamamoto, the Kauai County Representative submitted a written report (see attachment 4). He discussed his participation in a few sanctuary video projects and passed around a promotional flyer for the Sanctuary Ocean Count project which he created to assist in the recruitment of local residents.

**Maui County:**

Cheryl Sterling, Maui County Representative, submitted a written report (see attachment 5). Cheryl announced that she was asked to set up a meeting with MECO Maui to discuss the wave energy project. She also discussed the upcoming International Year of the Reef event that will be held on Maui that will be held at the same time as the Slack Key Festival. She asked the Council to help spread the word.

She reiterated that the wave energy pilot project is not in sanctuary waters but because the whales don't stay in the sanctuary boundaries the Council should remain educated on projects such as this.

**Conservation Committee:**

Lou Herman, Conservation Committee Chair, submitted a written report (see attachment 6). Lou stated that he thinks it's important for the committee to provide updated information to the Council at large so they can make informed decisions about the management of humpbacks. Lou previously provided whaling data from 1910 – 1965 but stated that there is a need to come up with new estimates of what the original population was because of gross underreporting on the part of some countries. Now is the time to bring this to everyone's attention in conjunction with the SPLASH results.

Naomi McIntosh emphasized that the SPLASH results indicate areas that have not seen full recovery (outlying areas) and this information may provide the reason why. Discussion about this topic continued and including topics on understanding the genetics and the connection to the Endangered Species Act and the potential for the delisting of humpback whales. Naomi stated that the migration and population structure is more challenging to understand than we thought and there are still many interesting questions that need to be answered.

**Education Committee:**

Liz Kumabe, Education Committee Chair, submitted a written report (see attachment 7). Ms. Kumabe stated she will stand on her report but she did discuss the recent conference call during which the committee members were provided with an overview of different offices and their function and the functions of individual staff members. Also, she reported that the committee would like the Council to consider making a recommendation to hold a future Council meeting on Maui so that members could visit the Maui site and become familiar with its operations.

**Research Committee:**

Adam Pack, Research Committee Chair, provided a written report (see attachment 8). The Research Committee held a joint call with the Conservation Committee. Adam highlighted the recommendation to review sanctuary boundaries and support aerial surveys to the joint priority list. Also, he pointed out the updated tables on vessel whale interactions during the 2008 whale season and encouraged everyone to read the SPLASH report.

Jeff Walters further discussed the table in regards to interactions versus collisions. He stated that entanglement reports were down from previous years. Discussion followed on the requirements for large amounts of lost gear to be reported.

**Aquaculture Working Group:**

Mike Stanton, Aquaculture Working Group Chair, provided a written report (see attachment 9). Mike mentioned 2 contested case filings at the Kona Blue public hearing and stated that currently the expansion plans for Kona Blue have been withdrawn without prejudice. He stated that Dale is going to give a presentation on Maui Fresh Fish this afternoon.

**Blue Seas, Green Communities Working Group**

Teri Leicher, Blue Seas, Green Communities Working Group Chair, submitted a one-pager (see attachment 10) that lists projects that we can start. The next step is to form

subcommittees within the committee. For instance: biodiesel information, green business awards, etc. The group is also interested in further greening the Council meetings.

Bill Friedl stated that he would like the new sanctuary vessel to be as ecologically responsible as possible.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **State Funding- Jeff Walters, Co-Manager, HIHWNMS**

Bill Friedl began the discussion by stating that there is a need for the state to appropriate some funds for the protection of humpback whales. Money has been made available for monk seal protection because of people that lobbied the legislature. To date the sanctuary has been supported by federal funding.

Jeff stated that his staff consists of himself, David, Justin, Mimi, Earl and an assistant. Justin is fully funded by NOS but he spends a lot of time on monk seals. David is fully funded by NOS but the others are paid for by other Fisheries Service grants. Because positions are exempt positions, Jeff has to fight to keep the positions every year. Bill Friedl stated that the necessary message to the state is that in the past there has been no line item to support the sanctuary and operations and we need to change that trend to support the sanctuary because of the benefit it provides to the state and because of the good work that is being done.

Discussion on this topic continued and focused on the economic benefit of humpback whales to the state as well as the public interest in humpback whales and the potential for additional research. The state compact agreement with the sanctuary (which does not require state funding) was also mentioned.

Funding from the Hawaii Tourism Authority was also discussed. Cheryl Sterling mentioned that there is currently an issue with a grant that was awarded to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) on behalf of the HIHWNMS from HTA. The NMSF is having difficulty getting their tax clearance. Bill Friedl offered to talk to Lori Arguelles (NMSF) on getting tax clearances from out of state entities he also asked if the Council should issue a letter to the Governor urging an overall commitment to the sanctuary.

Reg White made a motion that the Council authorize the Chair to write a letter to the Governor urging state funds to support the sanctuary program's staffing for the coming year. Adam Pack seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The discussion ended by members discussing that the letter should state some of the benefits of the sanctuary to the state and that there is a need for a follow-up meeting after the letter is sent. Bill Friedl stated that he will put together the letter in a timely manner and inform the Council when it has been sent.

### **New Business**

#### **Marine Mammal Aerial Survey Support Letter**

Terry O'Halloran made a motion that the Council write a letter to NFWF to support the grant to help fund additional surveys by Joe Mobley. Reg White seconded the motion which carried unanimously. There was no discussion.

### **Recommendation for Maui Meeting**

Education Committee Chair Liz Kumabe referred everyone to the Education Report (attachment 7). Liz made a motion that the Council convene a meeting on Maui preferably during whale season to include a site visit to the Maui sanctuary campus. Adam Pack seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on this new business item focused on providing the Council with an opportunity to better understand the sanctuary's programs by visiting the Maui site and whether or not this meeting would be possible depending on funding.

### **Research Priority Updates – Aerial Surveys**

Adam Pack discussed the importance of getting updated information on humpback whales and other marine mammals using aerial surveys. He made a motion that the Council suggests the HIHWNMS updates information on humpback whales in the sanctuary via aerial surveys. Aerial surveys should be added to the Research priorities as stated in the Research Committee Report. Lou Herman seconded the motioned which passed unanimously.

### **Other New Business**

In other new business there was a suggestion made to have presentations on the following topics: whale safe fishing gear, buoys, and wave energy, update on SPLASH. The Executive Committee will discuss these proposed topics further.

Dale Sarver requested that the Council or the sanctuary develop a guideline for what the aquaculture business could expect as far as reporting, observing, etc. The information could be broadened beyond the sanctuary to include other stakeholders. The primary goal would be to focus on monitoring whale impacts. This has previously been identified as a priority of the Research Committee.

Bill Friedl asked Dale to formulate a problem statement with the Aquaculture Working Group and then work with the group to formulate an answer and then if it provides further action beyond that then the total council can consider it. Bill Friedl mentioned the study that Channel Islands conducted. It will be distributed to members via email.

### **Presentations**

#### **2007-2008 Whale Season Update by NOAA OLE – Jeff Pollack**

Jeff Pollack provided the council with an update on whale season. The NOAA Office for Law Enforcement season runs from January to March. The focus is on Maui covering areas between Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and Kahoolawe. A number of complaints about potential violations were received. In total there were 90 complaints from various sources. Fourteen cases have developed from those complaints. Investigations are on-going. Sending an officer in plain clothes onto tourist vessels provided some good information and some cases. NOAA OLE has seen an increase in the number of violations on other islands other than Maui, particularly the Big Island. Enforcement efforts are going to shift to provide coverage to some other islands next year. Violations are primarily related to approach and swimming with whales. All recent cases have been civil cases with monetary penalties. Alexa Cole is now the NOAA enforcement litigation attorney assigned to Hawaii. She has discretion to how that case is handled

depending upon the severity. The United States Coast Guard supports the efforts of NOAA OLE.

### **Hawaii Superferry Update – Terry O’Halloran**

Terry O’Halloran provided an update on the Hawaii Superferry (HSF) and the Legislative Act that called for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to be completed. The executive order of the governor established protocols and conditions for HSF to operate. An oversight task force is monitoring everything HSF is doing and the Department of Transportation hired a rapid risk assessment group.

This whale season the HSF saw about 1600 whales. Whale avoidance is working in fact, the vessel is very maneuverable - there is no other vessel like it. The EIS is being done Belt Collins, a contracted hired by DOT. The draft will be released in November of 2008 and the final is expected in May or June of 2009. The rapid risk assessment is almost complete. HSF is going through the incidental take permit process with NOAA and is doing a habitat conservation plan. At NOAA’s suggestion HSF has hired a contractor to help do that.

Whit Au, acoustics researcher conducted a study related to vessel noise with the vessel going at 3 different speeds. The results will be part of the EIS. The service speed of the vessel is 35 knots. A new vice president of Marine Operations has been hired and to keep costs down they will leave ports as soon as people are checked which results in saving fuel by allowing ferry to operate more slowly.

The HSF is currently only operating between Maui and Honolulu. All transits are logged and documented. There have been 13 average whale sightings per trip. The HSF reports approaches within 100 meters of a whale to DOT, NOAA and DLNR.

### **Visioning for Management Plan Review – Anne Walton**

Anne Walton provided a powerpoint presentation that briefed the council on the visioning process that will take place as the first step of the management plan review. The staff will take part in one visioning session and then the Council will take part in their own process.

### **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Paul Michel**

Paul Michel, Superintendent of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, provided a brief powerpoint presentation that gave an overview of the programs taking place at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

### **Maui Fresh Fish – Dale Sarver and Ed Cichon**

Dale Sarver and Ed Cichon, owner and developer, gave a presentation on the new fish farm proposal for Maui and Lanai. The application for the project has not been submitted to DLNR yet. The initial fish stock would be about 100 fish and the food would come from Canada. The equipment proposed for the project and the location near Lanai were both discussed.



**Public Forum**

There were no public comments at this time.

**Announcements**

Eric Kingma announced the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council meeting that is scheduled for next week as well as the Joint OCEANIA & OLA-HI Meeting for marine educators. Also, Eric brought a letter of support from the council related to the management plan review process.

The next meeting that is currently planned is the September 11<sup>th</sup> visioning session.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Friedl adjourned the meeting at 3:06 p.m.

## **Attachment 1**

### **Chair's Report** ***Bill Friedl***

My principal activity for this reporting period was the 2008 Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting in Newport News, Virginia.

The meeting's first day (Tuesday May 13) featured presentations of case studies from the four Sanctuary Program regions: Northeast/Mid-Atlantic/Great Lakes Region from Stellwagen Bank NMS; Southeast/Gulf of Mexico/Caribbean Region from Gray's Reef NMS; West Coast Region from Gulf of the Farallones NMS; and the Pacific Islands Region from Papahānaumokuākea MNM and an overview presentation on the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation from Lori Arguelles, NMSF President and CEO. We also had break-out sessions with our respective regional directors to discuss common or regional Sanctuary issues. The day ended with a reception at the Monitor Center hosted by the Monitor NMS and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

On Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, we were afforded an opportunity to continue our discussions with other Sanctuary advisory council chairs and coordinators during a tour of Colonial Williamsburg and Jamestown Island. In the evening, Dr. Basta hosted a "very informal Chairs Summit evening session over a working dinner", which gave the chairs an opportunity to discuss procedural or other concerns with Dr. Basta and each other.

On Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, we heard presentations from ONMS staffers on the Management Plan Review process (Ed Lindelof); the Blue Seas, Green Communities Initiative (Liz Moore); results of recent program evaluations and discussions (Liz Moore and Helene Scalliet); and an open session to tie up loose ends not covered elsewhere (budget prioritization, program organization, and other impediments to policy execution)

The meeting was quite productive. I came away with a better understanding of the policy, political and operational issues that act to constrain the National Marine Sanctuary Program. On a more local level, I learned a great deal about advisory councils for other Sanctuaries, especially their structure and mode of operation. I realize that our SAC faces many of the same issues and frustrations as other advisory councils, but we also have a unique operational relationship and interdependence with the State of Hawaii here. Perhaps the most important thing I learned about the National program was the clear and simple fact that budget constraints drive priorities within the program and headquarters is continually evaluating how the individual sanctuary programs will (1) spend today's money and (2) spend any additional money for additional resources, additional resources and (most importantly) additional outcomes. To quote Dr. Basta: "the budget sorts out what we must do, what we should do, and what would be nice to do".

The meeting also raised my awareness of the strong Conservation Ethic that underlies the National Marine Sanctuaries Program. Accordingly, a fundamental truth underlying the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is the fact that the Tri-island/Penguin Bank area of the Hawaiian Islands may be the most significant and accessible congregation site for great whales in the world and it is incumbent upon us to do everything we can to foster the whales' survival and well-being.

Regional Issues. The break-out session with the Pacific Islands Regional Director Allen Tom was lively and productive. Our SAC and the Papahānaumokuākea MNM RAC have many common issues. Director Tom is looking into ways to broaden the member base of each council while exploring the possibility of smaller councils overall or perhaps a unified joint Sanctuary Advisory Council. I anticipate that we will have more interaction with the Papahānaumokuākea MNM RAC through the good offices of the Regional Director in the coming year. Clearly, the two programs share common “critter issues”, particularly with respect to Humpback Whales and Hawaiian Monk Seals. Director Tom, RAC Vice-Chair Linda Paul, and I agreed to continue discussions of these common interests in the coming months.

Chairs Dinner with Dan Basta. The “table topics” at the dinner had three main themes: Enforcement, Management Plan Review, and Council Chairs’ input to the national program. On enforcement within the sanctuaries, Dr. Basta stated that the policy and procedures paperwork have been assembled and were working their way through an ever-lengthening hack and approval chain at NOAA. On the MPR, Dr. Basta advised us to work within the process and resources available and don’t let the process overcome progress more important or relevant Sanctuary issues. Finally, Dr. Basta reminded the chairs that we are first and foremost citizens, taxpayers and voters whose individual voices are important in the corridors of power in Washington, DC. Dr. Basta is working to open the lines of communication for input to headquarters from the individual Sanctuary councils, but the onus is on each of us as individuals first and foremost. The discussions at the dinner were frank and very informative.

Other Items of Note. Information about the recent Sanctuary Program self-analysis and reorganization at the National Marine Sanctuary Program Office was interesting. The first obvious result of the exercise was the reorganization of the newly-designated Office into a regional structure. Other developments have been either conceptual or below the public surface of the Program (to date). As far as the Sanctuary Advisory Councils are concerned, the developing goal seems to be toward more direct “serving” of the SAC community through increased assistance and outreach instead of policy dictums. Clearly, these concepts are still evolving, but my impression is that the Advisory Councils are important conduits within the National Program. The Councils may not always be loved at Headquarters, but they are respected and afforded full measure of attention.

What does all this mean for our SAC? Our Sanctuary Managers seem to have laid out reasonable program plans for the next year or so. The Management Plan Review is ever-looming and the SAC members will likely play key roles at the interface with the public as the Plan moves forward. In the near-term, I believe the SAC needs to formulate The Way Forward for the MPR with consideration of (1) new species (focus on monk seals), (2) new boundaries (realistically reflect where the whales’ distribution), and (3) true sanctuary and conservation for the whales (a formal “whales only” zone within the Sanctuary). Finally, we need to evaluate the relationship of the Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary to the Papahānaumokuākea MNM and formulate plans that will enhance both programs.

Bill Friedl

## Attachment 2

### **Sanctuary Manager's Report** **Naomi McIntosh**

#### **SAC Highlights**

##### SAC Education Committee Meeting

The SAC education committee met by conference call on April 3rd. As this was the first call in a newly revised committee set-up with monthly conference call meetings, new committee members were welcomed and committee operations were reviewed and discussed. The island programs coordinators from Oahu (Christine Brammer), Kona (Justin Viezbicke), and Kauai (Jean Souza) presented overviews of existing projects/activities and identified budget impacts on island operations. Needs and future near-term projects were discussed.

##### SAC Conservation and Research Committee Meeting

The Sanctuary Advisory Council's Conservation and Research Committees held their monthly conference call in April to discuss priorities and new issues. Discussion focused on topics such as Maui wave energy, upcoming humpback whale research results and more.

#### **Education and Outreach Highlights**

##### Increasing Ocean Awareness

Ocean Awareness outreach continues to be provided to members of AARP. 40 AARP members visited the Maui Education Center and listened to a whale and turtle discussion by Sanctuary Education Center Manager Jerry Stowell.

Naomi McIntosh, Sanctuary Superintendent joined Michiko Martin and Claire Fackler with the NMSP as observers at the Press Event for motion picture release of NIMS Island. The NMS is a conservation partner with Walden/Fox Media working to promote education and awareness about Sanctuaries during the promotion of the movie.

Media - HIHWNMS research staff took a camera crew and reporter from the local NBC television affiliate out on the water for a day of research as a part of the "Earth and Sea" project. This project is a cooperative education and outreach project between the Sanctuary program and KHNL TV station to provide a year-long series of weekly stories on the environment that focus on (primarily) NOAA's work to understand and conserve Hawaii's marine and terrestrial environment.

David Mattila was interviewed by Jennifer Stock, Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary in May for her radio show. The show was an hour long and discussed the SPLASH project, humpback rescue efforts and other topics, including recordings of humpback song.

SPLASH Press Release: New Study Finds Most North Pacific Humpback Whale Populations Rebounding: *Some humpback populations still slow to recover* released by NOAA on May 21 generated over 160 news articles worldwide within 2 days of the story being released.

On April 12<sup>th</sup>, Sanctuary staff took part in a special Mauka to Makai festival at the Waikiki Aquarium. This festival kicked off a variety of Earth Day activities and was sponsored by the City and County of Honolulu, the Waikiki Aquarium, and the State of Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources. Admission to the aquarium was free for the day and approximately 15 organizations offered activities and information to the public. The sanctuary hosted a booth that featured information on the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary as well as information from NOAA's Marine Debris Program and NOAA's Weather Service. A special release of moi (goat fish) fish also took place. The moi that are released are tagged and are part of a program to learn more about the fish.

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, Sanctuary staff took part in the annual Pearl Harbor Earth Day event held outside the Pearl Harbor Exchange. This special event offers information and

activities to military families about what they can do to help protect Hawaii's fragile environment. Displays range from going green and planting native plants to protecting the ocean. This is a great event for the sanctuary because it provides an outreach opportunity for military families to learn about the ocean and how to protect it. The sanctuary worked alongside NOAA's Marine Debris Program to offer an activity and information on protecting humpback whales and other marine wildlife from entanglement.

Sanctuary staff worked together with staff from the Papahānauamokuākea Marine National Monument and the NOAA Fisheries Marine Debris Program to offer information at the sold-out Kokua Festival. This annual concert that features Jack Johnson is a fundraiser for the Kokua Hawaii Foundation, the non-profit organization founded by Jack Johnson. Over the last few years it has become a large venue for promoting environmentally-friendly living. The NOAA booth promoted each program listed above, and also promoted the new television series that is airing locally on NBC news affiliate KHNL, entitled "Earth and Sea". Bookmarks made of recycled paper were distributed to promote the educational series that provides information on protecting the ocean and other natural resources in Hawaii.

Check out the National Marine Sanctuary Program's website to see the newly completed humpback whale migration game. The flash computer game teaches about the annual migration of the humpbacks to Hawaii and focuses on the threats that endanger humpback whales. Links from the HIHWNMS' website will be offered and other sites are also encouraged to link to this fun and interactive game.

Christine Brammer completed the new website for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. The new site is currently under going review and is expected to be live in the next few weeks. An announcement will be sent to all staff at that time so they can check out the new site. The site is a total redesign in a similar format to the national site. The site will feature almost all new content and will offer a variety of information to the public that was not previously available.

Sanctuary hosted a booth at the Maui Nui Botanical Garden's Earth Day Event on Saturday, April 19th. Environmental organizations from around Maui participated giving away eco friendly products and providing activities honoring earth day.

The Sanctuary hosted a booth at Keiki Fest, Saturday April 12th, held every year at Maui Community College. Thousands of children have an opportunity to learn new things and actively participate in arts and crafts and environmental activities.

Jean Souza participated in a panel presentation on "Engaging Volunteers" at the recent Kauai Conservation Conference at University of Hawaii, Kauai Community College. The conference attracted over 300 attendees.

Maui site began a new outreach program, partnering with the Mayor's Office and Community Workday. The group has received a grant for the Hawaii Tourism Association to run outreach booths, focusing on tourists from the cruise ships that dock on Maui on a daily basis. Outreach tables with information on the International Year of the Reef and Maui's fragile reefs will be conducted for the 4 months at Walmart, Maui Mall and Lahaina Harbor.

Naomi McIntosh, Patty Miller and David Mattila were featured guest speakers at Maui County's Brown Bag session for the month of May. The presentations were open to all County employees and Councilmembers.

Naomi McIntosh attended an unveiling ceremony that was held at the Mokupapapa Discovery Center for a new design created by Sig Zane Designs. Sig and Kuha'o Zane created the design in recognition of the International Year of the Coral Reef to help raise awareness about the ecological, social and cultural value of coral reefs and to generate actions that will conserve these resources for future generations. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the new design will be donated to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to benefit sanctuary education programs in the Pacific Region.

Christine Brammer taught a class on marine protected species for the Hanauma Bay Education Program's new volunteers. In the future, the sanctuary plans to partner with this program to offer more advanced volunteer training to the volunteers of any marine-related organization.

Patty Miller hosted an informational booth at the main Maui Mall focusing on Ocean's Week and children's ocean art activities during June.

## Enhancing Student Learning Opportunities about Hawai'i's Oceans

A. Maui hosted a variety of educational opportunities during this reporting period some of the highlights include:

- Students from Kihei Youth Center, conducted a reef monitoring survey of the Ahihi area. This is a snorkeling activity that has students collecting data on fish species.
- Forty retired teachers from Oahu visited the site to learn about our school programs. They participated in activities related to the fishpond, whales and did some traditional fish printing.
- An Elder Hostel Group spent an afternoon participating in a whale talk and their favorite activity of gyotaku (fish printing)
- A special group of high school Girl Scouts from Oahu and the Big Island spent Friday at the site learning about Marine Science and possible careers. They participated in an invertebrate monitoring project in the fishpond, whale research activities and ended the day with some very creative fish printing projects.
- The education team partnered with the Digital Bus to run a beach exploration activity of 80 Kindergarten students from Pukalani elementary. Students looked at life on the beach, bringing back items of interest to examine under the microscopes.
- Education Specialist Alastair Hebard and Jerry Stowell hosted a school group during the spring break. Kahumanu Hou School with 25 K-4th grade students. The students participated in activities on whales and the coral reef. Threats to sea turtles were then highlighted to the children by running an interactive tag game called "Turtles Hurdles".
- Maui site is partnering with the Southeast Phytoplankton Monitoring Program. They are supplying expertise and equipment and Maui is collecting phytoplankton data that will be entered into a nationwide database.
- Alastair Hebbard coordinated an Earth Day vegetation project for special education intermediate students, sanctuary volunteers and a group of Americore volunteers. They planted trees in a beach park on the north shore of Maui.
- On April 25<sup>th</sup>, staff met with members of Na Kupuna o Maui to discuss the education programs at the Maui Sanctuary office.
- In May, the Maui site hosted 4 full days of school groups. Secondary students participated in fish counts at Ahihi Bay, (this monitoring project has been on going for months) and the younger kids participated in humpback whale and turtle programs. The site also hosted high school students for an intensive training on using the B-WET boats for monitoring projects. These are boogie board sized remote controlled boats that can monitor the reef flats, and take water quality data.

B. Student education activities also took place on the Island of Kauai. "Science at the Beach" Student Workshops- The Kauai Sanctuary office coordinated and conducted "Science at the Beach" student workshops during the recent public school spring break. Three workshops, all featuring hands-on marine science activities, were held concurrently at Poipu Beach Park for elementary-aged Girl Scouts and their families, and for high school biology and zoology students. The sessions consisted of the following topics: ocean safety, beach sand analysis, live critter study, ocean etiquette, Hawaiian Monk Seal observations, habitat comparisons, albatross bolus analysis, blue seas, and salty seas. The sessions were conducted with the help of a few trained sanctuary volunteers, Girl Scout Cadet Troop 950, high school science teacher Melinda Madison, Pacific Islands Region's MPA capacity building trainer Anne Walton, NOAA Fisheries' coral reef ecologist Jason Philibotte, geologist and oceanographer Chuck Blay, County lifeguard Roy Yamagata, and Kauai Programs Coordinator Jean Souza. A post-event evaluation has been conducted among the presenters. A post-event evaluation among the high school students is currently underway.

"Simulated SPLASH Research by Students" - The fourth and final boat-load of high school students completed their field work during April in connection with a demonstration project initiated by Kauai Programs Coordinator Jean Souza, where the students simulated some of the research protocols used in SPLASH (Structure of Populations, Levels of Abundance, and Status of Humpback Whales). While respecting federal and state 100-yard whale approach regulations and ocean etiquette guidelines, the students used hand-held global positioning system units to track groups of humpback whales, and studied individual groups to distinguish individual animals and their roles within the group. Students, working in teams, participated in photography and sketching of individual animals, data recording, and navigating. In-classroom follow-up activities include mapping tracks of effort and start-stop locations of individual groups, photo and data analysis. About 120 high school students from two high schools have participated in this project. A multi-media presentation on

humpback whale awareness, research findings, and sanctuary awareness was presented to over 350 high schools students and 13 high school teachers prior to the boat trips.

#### Promoting Ocean Stewardship

- A. Sanctuary volunteer efforts - Sanctuary volunteers educated 30 students from Waianae Elementary on the sanctuary, humpback whales and Hawaiian monk seals in a special presentation on Monday, March 10. This special presentation was very timely during the month of March since a monk seal had been frequenting the Waianae coast of Oahu and it has become even more important to educate the public about their protection.

More than 500 volunteers gathered data from the shores of O`ahu, Kaua`i, the Big Island, and Kaho`olawe for the annual Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Ocean Count. Participants tallied humpback whale sightings and documented the animals' surface behavior during the final survey of 2008. Volunteers collected data from 58 sites statewide. The following are the average numbers of whales sighted per 15-minute count period on each of the islands: O`ahu – 2 whales, Kaua`i – 3 whales, Big Island – 2 whales, and Kaho`olawe – 5 whales.

Maui hosted its' annual volunteer appreciation barbeque on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. The event was attended by about 100 volunteers and community partners. The Maui program has 98 active volunteers, 70 of them attended the event. The volunteers are a vital part of the Maui programs. The event hosted Hawaiian music (by some of the volunteers), special recognition of all volunteers, the announcement of HIHWNMS Volunteer nominee of the Year, Bob Ragains and door prizes for all.

The Sanctuary held its monthly Maui volunteer meeting on Wed, April 16th. This month the meeting was held in conjunction with the International Year of the Reef outreach training. Volunteers learned about the program and how they could get involved at outreach education stations at Maui Mall and Lahaina Harbor. Sponsored by a Hawaii Tourism Authority grant, several Maui environmental organizations along with the County Mayors office put together this educational outreach which will continue throughout the year.

- B. Boater Outreach Initiatives - Sanctuary Co-Manager, Jeff Walters, gave a presentation to the Hawaii Ocean Safety Team during their recent membership meeting. The presentation focused on issues from the current whale season with an emphasis on vessel collisions and entanglement incidents.
- C. Maui site hosted a May meeting for the Fish and Wildlife Service who were recruiting for the Hawksbill Dawn Patrol program. These are volunteers that walk the beaches early in the morning looking for signs of turtle tracks that would indicate a possible nesting event.
- D. The Ocean Awareness Training spring certification course started again on June 2nd at the Sanctuary's Education Center in Kihei and at the Maui Community College education center in Lahaina. Participants will receive the CORAL (care of our Culture, Oceans, Reef and Animal life) certification card after completing 6 training sessions and one field day component. Last week lectures were given by Kapuna Ed Lindsay on the Kumulipo, Dr. Greta Aeby from the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology on coral reef disease and from Darla White from Division of Aquatic Resources/University of Hawaii Botany department on The Importance of Herbivorous Fish on the Reef. The first Field day was held on Sat, June 7th. Participants were given the opportunity to participate in a REEF (reef environmental education foundation) snorkel survey. They were taught basic protocol of the roving diver technique and split into groups to identify and count reef fish. After returning from the water, everyone discussed what they saw and learned how to enter their data into a reef survey.
- E. The sanctuary began a new Citizen Scientist 'Opihi Monitoring Project on Thurs, June 5th. Volunteers will be collecting valuable data and assist school groups in collecting data for this ongoing monitoring project. Students and volunteers collect population and size data both inside an outside of 'Ahihi-Kina'u Natural Area Reserve (NAR). 'Opihi or limpets are a commonly collected food that are easily susceptible to over harvesting due to their small home ranges and short larval cycles. This monitoring project allows students and community members to see first hand the benefit of having protected



areas and the opportunity to get involved in a scientific monitoring project. The baseline data will be used by the 'Ahihi-Kina'u NAR for use in their management of the area. Volunteers will be collecting data on the last Friday of every month, starting June 27th, 9am—11:30am.

### ***Science and Rescue Highlights***

#### Sanctuary Research Efforts

HIHWNMS research coordinator, David Mattila took US Fish and Wildlife (FWS) personnel and an acoustics specialist from the Hawaii Institute for Marine Biology out in the Sanctuary Vessel, Hihimanu in order to make a series of recordings to monitor the Navy demolition of two unexploded ordinance on Molokini Island. This included a series of pre and post baseline recordings at different distances approximately 1.5 mile intervals around the perimeter, as well as an extended recording during one of the explosions (the other was delayed). The demolition was required by FWS as a precondition to their taking ownership of the Island, which is a nesting site to some endangered Hawaiian seabirds, and the monitoring was suggested by HIHWNMS. The explosion was not immediately audible through the hydrophones, but the recordings will be further analyzed back at the researchers lab.

#### Sharing humpback whale research and response expertise

Ed Lyman, Rescue Coordinator for HIHWNMS, completed Northern California disentangling training during May with full attendance. They had all the California Sanctuaries present, along with USCG, OLE, NOAA Fisheries, other state agencies, tour industry, researchers, network members, and a long list of NGOs. Considering the last minute re-scheduling, it was an amazing turnout. In addition, they had an actual entanglement get reported the very next day out in Monterey Bay, so several of the participants got some hands-on experience. They assessed the animal and determined that it was not a candidate for disentangling just needed to be monitored. It appeared that the entanglement is minor and is probably the dregs of what was once a more involved entanglement. Presently appears that only remaining gear is the primary surface buoy and the pickup system. The gear appears entangled in the barnacles on the tip of a subadult humpback's rostrum.

David Mattila attended in May, the joint annual meeting of the Trilateral Commission for Ecosystem Conservation and Management, and the Biodiversity Conservation Working Group of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation. These two Commissions promote cooperation between Mexico, the United States and Canada on shared matters of both terrestrial and marine environmental conservation, and cover a broad range of issues from migratory species of common concern to CITES, law enforcement and capacity building. David attended as a part of the U.S. delegation, hosted by NOAA Fisheries International Office, and gave presentations about the upcoming first global conference on marine mammal protected areas, to be hosted by HIHWNMS and partners in Hawaii, and about the accomplishments and future of the North American Conservation Action Plan for humpback whales (a shared species of common concern). He is the U.S. lead on the latter.

Ed Lyman, marine mammal response manager continues his road trip conducting disentangling trainings for the West Coast and Alaska. During May, he provided disentangling training for Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Cordova. Ed is on a detail with NOAA Fisheries - Protected Resources Division in Alaska until late July".

David Mattila attended an international meeting about skin lesions on cetaceans of (primarily) South America. He presented a paper about a new type of lesion found on humpback whales of American Samoa, during the Fagatele Bay NMS sponsored marine mammal survey that he and collaborators undertake each season. It was included in this meeting because the study recently documented, using photo-identification, the longest whale, and longest mammal movement, between A. Samoa and the Antarctic Peninsula, where it would mix with S. American humpbacks. Also, the new "blister-like" lesions seen on humpbacks appear to be similar to those seen on blue whales off Chile. The presentation created a bit of interest because the lesions are found in sometimes large numbers on virtually all adult humpback whales in A. Samoa, and 80% of those in Hawaii, while only a couple of animals in the N. Atlantic (on Stellwagen Bank NMS).

#### Sanctuary response efforts

There were two ship strike reports received in April. These two reports represented the 10th and 11th confirmed ship-strike reports of the season. Both involved humpback calves.

The first report came in on April 11 and the second on April 16. One of the animals has been seen multiple times and its condition has deteriorated. At least 5 tiger sharks have been observed tailing this animal.

On Friday, April 25, a humpback calf was reported entangled west of island of Oahu. United States Coast Guard along with David Schofield, NOAA Fisheries' Marine Mammal Response Network Coordinator and Dave Nichols, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (State, DLNR staff), responded aboard Coast Guard cutter, Ahi, and successfully attached a transmitter buoy to the gear entangling the animal. The fishing vessel, SeaFire, stoodby with the animals until the Coast Guard was able to arrive on scene. The US Coast Guard also diverted a H65 Helicopter to the area to assist with assessment. On Saturday, April 26, a fully equipped and experienced team, headed by HIHWNMS disentanglement coordinator Ed Lyman, departed from Ko'olina Harbor (Barbers Pt), Oahu in the Papahānaumokuākea Monument' new vessel "Hihimanu" to further assess, document, and attempt to cut the animal free. However, on arrival to the site (last fix from satellite transmitter) the team found the telemetry buoy with all entangling gear attached. The animal had thrown the gear during the night and was no longer entangled.

#### **IV. Enhancing Sanctuary Management**

- A. Sanctuary staff Christine Brammer and Paul Wong worked with Francis Gilbert and Amy Cale from the NMSP to discuss and begin planning for the new kiosks that the sanctuary will be receiving this summer. Content is in development and installation is planned for summer 2008 at four locations around the state.
- B. Maui staff hosted a visit by guests from NOAA Fisheries, including the Acting Director John Oliver, the Deputy Director of Protected Resources Helen Golde, and Wendy Goo from NMFS Public Affairs and Outreach. They accompanied the research staff as observers for a half-day of work in the Sanctuary off West Maui, followed by a site visit of the Kihei facility. The visit facilitated useful discussion of several ongoing and potential partnerships between Fisheries and HIHWNMS, including: follow up on the SPLASH project, strengthening the cooperative whale disentanglement program, the upcoming global conference on marine mammal protected areas, and various mutually beneficial education and outreach opportunities.
- C. Kihei Facilities Planning Meeting - A facilities planning meeting was held on April 2 and 3 to discuss the current stage of planning for the Kihei campus and to gather input from staff to validate the requirements for site. Doug Lowe, President, Facility Programming and Consulting facilitated the discussions. Ted Lillestolen with the NMSP also participated in the discussions with Maui staff and Sanctuary management.
- D. Ed Lyman participated in the Small Boat Summit held in Seattle. The Summit was held from April 15th through the 17th.
- E. Margaret Davidson, Coastal Services Center (CSC) Director met with U.S fish and Wildlife Service and Jean Souza for a tour of Kilauea point National Wildlife Refuge. Discussions included refuge boundary expansion, visitor contact alternatives, sanctuary program impacts and CSC initiatives.
- F. The HIHWNMS staff, which are spread out over the four main Hawaiian Islands held a one day "All Hands" meeting on Oahu. We had a very productive day of working on the Annual Operating Plan, evaluation strategies, updates on the rescue program, presentations on the Monument, and on upcoming new OLE programs. The day ended with a barbeque and a killer game of croquet.
- G. A stakeholder workshop for the Hawai'i Ocean Observing System (HIOOS) was held on May 20 at the University of Hawai'i. The primary objective of HIOOS, part of the Pacific Islands Integrated Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS), is to integrate and expand ocean observing and forecasting beginning with the following four catalyst projects focused initially on waters extending off O'ahu: Coastal ocean conditions and forecast, coastal hazards and vulnerability, 18

automated water quality sensing, marine ecosystem monitoring. A number of sanctuary partners are directly involved with HIOOS and Paul Wong participated in the meeting.

- H. Randall Scarborough, a Hollings Scholar recipient arrived at the Maui Office to begin his summer work on implementing a community and student based water quality program. He will also be assisting with some of the other ongoing student and community based monitoring programs the sanctuary runs for students and volunteers.

## **Attachment 3**

### **Hawai'i County Report** ***Luana "Nan" Howell***

**Accomplishments:** Home school group (30 students & ~20 parents) presentation on Hawaiian monk seals. Monthly West Hawaii Marine Mammal Response Network (WHMMRN) meetings.

**Events Attended:** CORAL Voluntary Marine Standards meetings, cauliflower coral (*P. meandrina*) spawning with Dana Riddle (phone: 936-5509, [riddlelabs@aol.com](mailto:riddlelabs@aol.com)) on West Hawaii coastline, West Hawaii Fisheries council meetings, Reef Talks, WHMMRN Volunteers assisting with "Project Newborn" at Dolphin Quest, Marine Mammal Response Network annual meeting on O'ahu.

**Hot Topics:** Rules and regulations for non-motorized craft have changed - Justin is contacting canoe & paddling clubs.

HMS RO42 (~2 y/o female) - Reportedly climbed in a tent and spooned with camper, also DAR reported she was chased by jet skis and folks were trying to ride her.

**Announcements:** HMS RO 15 due to pup Aug. 20.

#### ***Updates from Marine Conservation Coordinator, Justin Viezbicke:***

##### **Education/Outreach Accomplishments:**

- 3.7.08- Kealahou 4<sup>th</sup> Grade education-prep for whale watch the following week
- 3.14.08- Whale watch on Ocean sports with Kealahou 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- 3.12.08- Kona Blue Water Farm- met with staff to discuss dolphins at pens and how to avoid reinforcing animals in any form
- 3.19.08- 45 Ton Whale Talk at Outrigger Keauhou Beach Resort
- 4.10.08 -Filmed whale segment with Lyman Medeiros for local T.V station
- 4.19.08- Coral Reef Awareness Day @ Kahaluu Beach park
- 4.26.08- Jr. Ranger program with Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical park
- 5.16.08-Kahakai 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Monk seal education-pilot program
- 5.24.08-Jack's Diving Locker – monk seal presentation

##### **Marine Mammal Response:**

- 3.15.08-present- Assist OLE in investigation of vessel dropping swimmers in water to swim with Humpback Whales and monk seal/turtle concerns at Manuka
- 3.15.08-document and record seal sightings all around Big Island
- 4.1.08- Monthly MMRN meeting
- 5.6.08-Monthly MMRN meeting
- 5.6.08- KBWF fishpen dolphin monitoring on site
- 5.9.08- Attempt to locate RO42 south of Milolii to Manuka with David Schofield

##### **Research:**

- 3.21.08- Photo identification research with Doug Perrine

##### **Hot Topics:**

RO42- continues to be a management challenge here on the Big Island  
Enforcement-continuing to develop relationship at both State and Federal levels  
Arrival of Superferry

## Attachment 4

### Kaua'i County Report James Yamamoto



## *Kaua'i County Report*

James T. Yamamoto, Kaua'i Representative

June 12, 2008

Sanctuary Advisory Council



- The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary •

#### ***Accomplishments:***

- *Science at the Beach*

NOAA's HIHWNMS Kaua'i under Jean Nishida Souza, Programs Coordinator, conducted a morning program of *Science at the Beach Student Workshop* on March 20, 2008 at Poipu Beach County Park with a dozen 5-12 year-old scout and family members of the Kalaheo Girl Scout Cadet Troop 950 and 16 biology/zoology students from Waimea High School, Melinda Madison, instructor.

A nice front page story in *the Garden Island*, written by Rachel Gehrlein with photos by Dennis Fujimoto, was promptly published on that same Thursday afternoon! A nice job by Gehrlein and Fujimoto, indeed. On a rotating basis, the following sessions were covered by community marine scientists and NOAA experts: The Shore, Habitat Comparisons, Ocean Safety, Albatross Bolus, Live Critters, Each One Teach One, Ocean Etiquette, and Blue Seas/Salty Seas. Bonus for the participants, also, was a brief walk to the beach where a resident Monk Seal was resting. Jean did a great job of providing background information on one of our endangered species. Participants were alert and engaged all morning thanks to Jean and the providers. A fifteen-minute home video documented the activities of that morning. Kudos to the adult chaperones, participants, organizers, session leaders, and to the Kalaheo Girl Scout Troop 950 (co-sponsors and co-presenters).

- *Ocean Count*

March 29, 2008, Saturday, at the Kapa'a Lookout site. John Burger took over my duties at site leader as David Nichols (DLNR) asked if I could video tape activities at some of the sites that morning. Took 20-minutes of video, inclusive, at four of the ocean count sites: Princeville, Lumahai, Kilauea Lighthouse Preserve, and at the Kapa'a Lookout. Did interviews, volunteer shots, site views, and some ocean activity. Video cassette and jpeg stills were mailed to David Nichols for his usage. Subsequently, the clips were not transferable as the setting on the Cannon HD camera could not be adjusted properly (not even when saving to AVI format).

From the report, looks like whale activities were down to three sightings per 15-minute period as opposed to the February count of six whales per. January average was three per, however. Volunteer count went down to 87 in this period as compared to January, 123, and February at 122.

- *Simulated SPLASH Research with Students on the Napali Explorer*

Went on the commercial Napali Explorer for a two hour excursion along the south-eastern coastline on April 1, 2008. No, this was not an April Fool's joke. Jean and I, Island School science instructor, Kate Mink, and 28 students boarded the boat at 10:20 that Tuesday morning and returned by noon. A four minute DVD video was produced of that event. This is a new project piloted by Jean that allows students to implement some of the SPLASH research protocols and also to use the actual data forms.

- *Retired Teachers' Newsletters*

Published a small article calling for Ocean Count volunteers in the KRTA's (*Kaua'i Retired Teachers' Association*) May newsletter. This association includes retired teachers, administrators, and any person associated with the Department of Education, State of Hawai'i (custodians, cafeteria workers, clerks, etc.). Also included a recruitment advertisement in the HSTA-R's *Kaua'i Chatter*, May 1st issue.



- *Ocean Count Recruitment Flyer*

Using a newly designed Ocean Count Recruitment instrument, went to the *East Kaua'i Lions Club* dinner meeting at Wong's Restaurant in Hanapepe on Wednesday, April 16 and encouraged members to participate in Ocean Count. Twelve members present and talked and answered questions for 15 minutes. Also attended the morning meeting of the *Kaua'i Association for Family and Community Education* (formerly University Extension) on May 10, Saturday at the Lihu'e Neighborhood Center. Twenty-eight members present from the different community groups comprising the KAFCE. Passed out the recruitment instrument and filibustered for 15 minutes.

**Events Attended:**

Took in the *Second Kaua'i Conservation Conference*, April 11-12, 2008 at the Kaua'i Community College's Performing Arts Center. Conference sponsored by the Garden Island Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. and sat in on the following workshops: "Community-Based Marine Management" with panelists Ka'aumoana, Bowensmith, Miller, Forrest, Chandler, and Scholfield; "Community-Based Ecological Restoration" with Burney, Winter, Tresler, and Garnett; and finally "Engaging Volunteers" with our own Jean Souza, Cassel (Koke'e Conservation Program), and Saari (Kilauea Point Wildlife Refuge). Certainly, the latter the most spirited and passionate of the attended sessions. Adjournment at 4 p.m.

**Hot Topics:**

**Announcements:**

- Sanctuary booth at the *11th Annual Kaua'i Family Ocean Fair* at the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge set for Saturday, July 12, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Coordinated by Jean Souza with the theme, *International Year of the Reef*.
- *Science at the Beach Student Workshop* session for participants of the County's Summer Fun program at Poipu Beach Park on July 18th.
- Shall be setting up recruitment meetings with the Delta Kappa Gamma education society, and the East Kaua'i Rotary Club.





# CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH NATURE



Free Materials for Educators



Discovery



Make and take

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Kauai Family Ocean Fair at Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge Saturday, July 12, 2008 10 am to 4 pm

Offsite parking at Kauai Christian Academy on Kilauea Road  
Free shuttles to Ocean Fair and Kilauea Refuge/Lighthouse

Hands-on Learning \* Free Materials for Educators  
Keiki Activities \* Demonstrations \* Exhibits \* Fun \* Crafts

Learn about our reefs, seabirds, Hawaiian monk seals, sea turtles, and marine mammals; free marine curriculum and resources for educators; gyotaku (fish) prints; art out of ocean drift debris; "Reef" hats; reef creatures face painting; tying knots and safe boating; ocean-themed refrigerator magnets and other activities

Exhibitors: US Fish and Wildlife Service Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, Kilauea Point Natural History Association, NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA Fisheries, DLNR/NOAA Hawaiian Monk Seal Conservation Hui, Malama Mahaulepu, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Kauai Public Land Trust and others

Lunch wagon: Savage Shrimp

This event is co-sponsored by NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, and the Kilauea Point Natural History Association  
For more information, contact the Kauai Sanctuary Office at 246-2860

**Free Admission+Free Activities+Free Admission+Free Activities**

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## **Attachment 5**

### **Maui County Report** ***Cheryl Sterling***

#### Wave Energy Project

At the request of the Sanctuary Chair, contact was made with MECO to set up an informational briefing for SAC members on the wave energy project being developed off the North shore of Maui. This was tentatively to occur in May, however MECO requested to hold off this presentation until Peter Kalish, a representative from lead partner Oceanlinx, would be in Hawaii.

Their reasoning for this is that while MECO's presentation could address the physical site and technology, they felt unable to discuss the potential for interaction by humpback whales as well

as other marine mammals with the site. To date MECO has not been able to confirm when an Oceanlinx representative will next be on Maui, however, there is still an intention to do the briefing.

#### International Year of the Reef 2008 (IYOR)

Participated in planning meetings for a special celebration event to be held on Sunday, June 22 from 6-9:30 pm at the Maui Ocean Center honoring the IYOR. This will feature educational exhibits,

entertainment, food, an invasive species (*ta'ape*) cookoff and access to the full aquarium center displays. The Kihei Sanctuary, HTA, Maui County and others are partners in this public event.

For more information and tickets please see [mauiocceancenter.com](http://mauiocceancenter.com)



## Attachment 6

### Conservation Committee Report *Lou Herman*

#### Informational Memorandum to the SAC on North Pacific Whaling for Humpback Whales

TABLE 1: CATCHES OF HUMPBACK WHALES IN THE NORTH PACIFIC  
AS REPORTED IN INTERNATIONAL WHALING STATISTICS

1910-19	1920-29	1930-39	1840-49	1950-59	1960-65	TOTAL
<b>1203</b>	<b>4073</b>	<b>1848</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>2441</b>	<b>5035</b>	<b>15390</b>

TABLE 2: CATCHES OF HUMPBACK WHALES FROM TWO SHORE STATIONS ON  
THE CALIFORNIA COAST 1919-1926 (*Note: there are no reported catches from  
California for those years in the IWC statistics*)

<i>Whaling Station/Year</i>	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	TOTALS
Moss Landing	<b>225</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>154</b>		<b>76</b>			<b>915</b>
Trinidad		<b>47</b>		<b>348</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>956</b>
TOTALS	<b>225</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1871</b>

TABLE 3: SOVIET CATCHES OF HUMPBACK WHALES IN THE NORTHEAST  
PACIFIC (*catches reported to the IWC/real catches*)

1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	TOTAL
<b>314/</b>	<b>1213/</b>	<b>2242/</b>	<b>242/</b>	<b>243/</b>	<b>0/</b>	<b>0/</b>	<b>0/</b>	<b>0/</b>	<b>0/</b>	<b>0/</b>	<b>4254/</b>
<b>314</b>	<b>1810</b>	<b>2625</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6793</b>

***Note: Data from N. V. Doroshenko. Soviet catches of humpback whales in the North Pacific***

TABLE 4: SOVIET UNDERREPORTING IN THE ANTARCTIC

Reported To IWC	Actual Catch	Number Underreported
<b>2820</b>	<b>48651</b>	<b>-45831</b>

## Attachment 7

### **Education Committee Report** ***Liz Kumabe***

#### **Recommendation**

The SAC Education Committee recommends the SAC explore the possibility of convening a SAC meeting on Maui to include a site visit to the Maui sanctuary campus. As the programmatic sanctuary headquarters and the primary facility for sanctuary education, SAC members (many of whom have been appointed since the last meeting on Maui several years ago) would have a deeper understanding of the sanctuary's physical resources and education programs by visiting the Maui campus and immersing themselves in the site and its programs.

Over the past two education committee tele-meetings in April and June, the participants were briefed on each island education operations by its staff. These summaries were given to assist the SAC in its visioning sessions and toward a proposed assessment and evaluation of Sanctuary education programs.

#### Overview by Staff on Island-by-Island Operations

##### ❖ ***Oahu Office Overview by Chris Brammer***

- Staffing consists of Chris and 2 part-time students
- Current activities consist of: Sanctuary Ocean Count with Chris overall in charge statewide, directly responsible for Oahu and Big Island, and providing support to Kauai counts; Humpback Whale Awareness Month with Chris coordinating the statewide efforts (new this year: Ocean Art, Essay and Poetry contest); outreach publications—content development, graphic design, printing; website; signage; kiosks.
- School activities are decided on a case-by-case basis. Other education activities include education booths, the lecture series, and the Bishop Museum whale exhibit
- Volunteers are recruited for ocean count and outreach events. Aside from ocean count, the volunteers consist of a small core group
- Near future: expand Humpback Whale Awareness Month/Oceans Day to include a photo contest for adults and Sanctuary Stewardship Award; Ocean Awareness Training (a multi-disciplinary, multi-week volunteer/naturalist training); bring in more funds for sanctuary activities and programs
- Other possibilities: ocean literacy alliance and “Thank You Oceans” campaign

##### ❖ ***Kona Office Overview by Justin Viezbicke***

- Staffing consists of Justin (state employee) and 20-30 volunteers
- Operations are out of a small space in the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii at Keahole Point; space is a problem to support activities and store equipment and supplies
- Responsibilities include: large whale disentanglement; collision assessments; research assistance; volunteer coordination; encourage compliance of laws; assist enforcement personnel; on-island coordinator of the marine mammal response network for strandings and beachings
- Current education activities include: whale education; monk seals; in-school

activities on a case-by-case basis; hands-on student activities; veranda whale watches at the Outrigger hotel

- Desirable future programs include: training volunteers to conduct in-school presentations during whale season; utilization of a theodolite which is dependent on acquisition of an Apple computer

#### ❖ **Kauai Office Overview by Jean Souza**

- Staffing consists of Jean and volunteers (up to 250 for Ocean Count and lesser numbers for education and outreach activities)
- Operations are out of a 950 square-foot leased space in a commercial office building. Inadequate space for training, meetings, storage of supplies and equipment
- Responsibilities include: disentanglement assistance and first responder duties; marine mammal emergency response and on-site education at strandings; research assistance; volunteer coordination; education and outreach
- Current education activities include in-school presentations at all grade levels; “Science at the Beach” student workshops; on-water whale research simulation by students; teacher workshops with partners; volunteer training for sanctuary and partners
- Other activities include ocean count; lecture series; annual Kauai Family Ocean Fair and other activities
- Desirable future programs include: more on-water enforcement of existing laws; more emphasis on preventing whale interactions by non-motorized vessels and ocean users; more field experiences for students

#### ❖ **Maui Office Overview by Patty Miller**

- Education staff consists of Patty, education assistant Alastair Hebard, and education center coordinator Jerry Stowell. The outreach staff consists of Maui volunteer coordinator Emily Carlson and sanctuary volunteers (about 50 active and 50 project-specific)
- Education programs reach 6,000 Maui students annually ranging from kindergarten to community college students. 95% of these students participate in programs on-site. Grades K through 5/6 participate in structured classroom settings; grades 7 through college participate in field classes. Programs cover topics such as marine animals (turtles and whales), limu, plankton, water quality, monitoring (reef/invertebrate identification, measuring opihi for UH, fishpond transects/quadrats, snorkeling at Ahihi or in fishpond (fish counts; turtle studies)
- Ongoing projects with partners include: funding bus fares for selected student activities (Kokua Foundation); microscopes, computers and technology (Digital Bus) with sanctuary providing the science programming; DLNR; service learning projects with students
- Existing outreach activities include: sanctuary volunteers staffing selected whale watch boats, staffing activity tables at Maui Ocean Center, and participating in conduct of Ocean Awareness Training with partners for naturalists and volunteers (6 sessions, 2 hours per night for about 100 naturalists/volunteers, conducted twice a year; involves testing for receipt of certificates)
- New or proposed projects include: Navy; Norwegian Cruise Lines education cruise to 3 neighbor islands with 100 students per day for one week of on-board marine science activities while docked; Tesoro reef program with Pacific American Corporation developing a reef curriculum with cultural component to be extended to all islands; Hollings Scholar to work on water quality and plankton projects; Kamehameha Schools year-long program of science activities

- SAC education committee acknowledged the role and importance of the Maui campus as the sanctuary's primary education and outreach facility. The committee noted that the SAC had not visited the Maui site in years and that major improvements have occurred. As such, the SAC education committee made a recommendation to suggest that the SAC explore the possibility of convening a SAC meeting on Maui to include a site visit to the Maui Sanctuary campus in Kihei. As the sanctuary headquarters, with the majority of staff, and the primary facility for sanctuary education, the committee feels that SAC members (many of whom have been appointed since the last meeting on Maui several years ago) would be able to formulate a deeper understanding of the sanctuary's physical resources and education programs, as described by Patty, by going to the Maui campus and observing first-hand its education and outreach programs and facilities.

## Attachment 8

### **Research Committee Report** ***Adam A. Pack, Ph.D.***

This report contains a brief summary of events and accomplishments related to research since the SAC meeting on March 13, 2008.

- I. Committee Conference Calls
  - a. On April 16, 2008 the SAC Research and Conservation Committees held a joint conference call. The issues discussed were:
    - i. ideas to address the problem of interactions between non-motorized water craft and humpback whales
    - ii. the Maui wave energy project
    - iii. the management plan review and scoping meetings
    - iv. ideas for the SAC coordinators meetings
    - v. SPLASH results regarding population numbers and the importance of relating these numbers to original population/stock estimates
    - vi. recommendation for new research priority item: We decided to recommend that the Sanctuary update the information on the distribution and density of humpback whales in the Hawaiian Islands, particularly in those areas currently outside the current sanctuary boundaries. This could be accomplished through new island-wide aerial surveys and results could be compared with earlier surveys. The principal concern of both committees was that current boundaries of the Sanctuary may be inadequate given the increase in the population of humpback whales.
- II. Update to data on ship strikes and entanglements during the 2008 humpback whale season in Hawaiian waters (Dec 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008)
  - a. Tables 1 and 2 summarize respectively reports of whale-vessel interactions and whale entanglements during the 2008 season. There were 9 reported whale-vessel interactions. Seven of these involved a vessel colliding with a whale. In two incidents the whale was reported to contact the vessel. There were six entanglements reported.
- III. Research Update
  - a. On May 21, 2008 initial results on population estimates of North Pacific humpback whales from the SPLASH project were reported in Nature. Multiple other reports in the media followed. The best estimate of overall abundance (excluding calves) is 18,302 humpback whales. Over 50% of this population was estimated to winter in Hawaiian waters. The rate of population growth in Hawaii was estimated at 5.5-6%. For comparison, the populations around Australia are growing at 10-11%, and the Western North Atlantic is about 3%. There is variation in stock abundance. Although some stocks are doing well, like those that comprise the majority of whales coming to Hawaiian waters, the abundance of other stocks are apparently low (i.e., below historical levels based on takes in the region). The latter appears to be the case for the Asian stock of humpbacks. The full report has been emailed to everyone and members are encouraged to read this report. Printed copies will be made upon request.
- IV. New humpback whale reports and publications

- a. Calambokidis et al. (2008). SPLASH: Structure of Populations, Levels of Abundance and Status of Humpback Whales in the North Pacific. Final Report for Contract AB133F-03-RP-00078 to U.S. Department of Commerce, Seattle, WA. 57pp.
- V. Updates on Addressing Research Committee Priorities:
  - a. Priority 4. Obtain first hand experience in ongoing issues
    - i. On May 22, 2008 Adam Pack obtained first hand experience taking the Hawaii Superferry from Oahu to Maui. The ferry's route took it across Penguin Banks and along the south shore of Molokai before traveling north through the Pailolo channel to reach Kahului harbor. The water was calm. Adam did not sight any whales while transiting. Adam returned on May 25<sup>th</sup> also via the Superferry. The route was north of Molokai and was accomplished without incident.

**Table 1. Reports of Vessel Interactions with Humpback Whales in Hawaiian Waters (2008 season)**

<u>Incident</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Age-class</u>	<u>Vessel type/ type of interactions</u>
1	1/10/08	Big Island	Adult	commercial boat/ boat collided with whale
2	1/27/08	Oahu	Calf	Commercial sailboat/ boat collided with whale
3	2/5/08	Maui	Adult	Private boat/ boat collided with whale
4	2/27/08	Oahu	Adult	Service vessel/ whale bumped boat
5	2/28/08	Maui	Subadult	Tour boat/ boat collided with whale
6	3/4/08	Big Island	Calf	Tour boat/ boat collided with whale
7	3/5/08	Maui	Adult	Tour boat/ boat collided with whale
8	3/21/08	Big Island	Adult	Sailing tour vessel/ whale rubbed along boat
9	3/27/08	Lanai	Calf	Tour boat/ boat collided with whale

**Table 2. Entanglement Reports of Humpback Whales in Hawaiian Waters (2008 season)**

<u>Incident</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Age-class</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	12/9/07	Maui	Subadult	Monofilament line around tailstock
2	12/29/07	870 nm NNE of HIS	Unknown	Mainline from commercial longliner: cut free
3	1/2/08	Maui	Calf	Small line from right side mouth
4	1/26/08	Maui	Subadult	Polypro line from forward on body
5	2/10/08	Maui	Adult	heavy gauge line through mouth and along body
6	4/25/08	Oahu	Calf	Several 100 ft of line trailing from calf with buoy and flag attached response team found gear thrown from animal

**Note:**

1. Data for Tables 1 and 2 are from Hawaiian Islands Disentanglement Network website: [www.whaledisentanglement.org](http://www.whaledisentanglement.org)
2. There were also two calves sighted in April 2008 with injuries consistent with contact with boat propeller. However, it is unknown whether these calves were resightings of calves reported as struck earlier in the season.

## **Attachment 9**

### **Aquaculture Working Group Report** **Mike Stanton**

#### **News**

Kona Blue Water Farms LLC product Kona Kampachi is now officially ranked as a "Good" alternative by Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch Program. This is the first time that a net-pen-grown marine fish has ever been ranked anything other than "RED: AVOID".

*Visit the following link for more information:*

[http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/SeafoodWatch/web/sfw\\_factsheet.aspx?gid=88](http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/SeafoodWatch/web/sfw_factsheet.aspx?gid=88)

#### **Accomplishments**

##### **Aquaculture Development Program Director Update**

4/3/08 - A letter was submitted to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture requesting that a Director be appointed to the Aquaculture Development Program as soon as possible.

4/11/08 – A response was received from the Hawaii Department of Agriculture stating that the vacancy is expected to be advertised in May.

Update: A vacancy announcement for an Aquaculture Development Program Manager (Recruitment Number 208157) is currently advertised. No closing date is listed. (<http://hawaii.gov/hrd/>)



## Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

### NON-GOVERNMENT (Volunt)

Dale Stover  
Business and Commerce

David Hoffman  
Glennville Farms

Terry O'Malley  
Commercial Shipping

Leah M. Herman, Ph.D.  
Conservation

Jim Koppitz  
Adventure

Robert Knack  
Paddling

Larry Howell  
Hawaii's Camp

William A. Friedl  
Hawaii's Camp

James Yamamoto  
Kauai's Camp

Cheryl Stalling  
Maui's Camp

John Kilduff  
Native Hawaiian

Fred Lickler  
Ocean Resources

Adam Teck, Ph.D.  
Research

Wilhelm Sturzen  
Tourism

James E. Carr  
Whale Watching

### GOVERNMENT

Martin Meyer  
DEEDP - CP

Elizabeth Collins  
NOAA's Ocean Resources

William M. Clark  
DLNR - DAR

Vernon  
DOR

Dean Walters  
DOZ - Fisheries

Vernon  
Regulatory Affairs NMS

Jerry E. Harris  
Office Policy

Tom Small  
FMSB - Law Enforcement

Chris Yates  
NMSB - PIRB

Michael Whiteley  
Population Management NMS

Eric Higgins  
Wetland Policy

Clayton Rogers  
USACE

LCDR Mark Young  
US Coast Guard

Roberta Hartman  
US Navy

April 3, 2008

Ms. Sandra Lee Kunimoto  
Hawaii Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Chairperson  
1428 S. King Street  
Honolulu, HI 96814

Dear Ms. Kunimoto,

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (Council) has been concerned with the issue of aquaculture for many years now. In the past, the Council worked in close consultation with the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's Aquaculture Development Program and was successful in developing a productive relationship towards the Council's goal of protecting humpback whales and their habitat in Hawai'i.

As you know, the position of Director for the Aquaculture Development Program has been vacant for some time now. In order to facilitate coordination and focus for the control and development of the aquaculture industry in the State of Hawai'i, the Council recommends that a Director for the Aquaculture Development Program be appointed as soon as possible. Such appointment is vital to ensuring the cohesive, controlled maturation of both the industry and interested parties to Hawai'i's aquaculture efforts.

Thank you for your attention to this recommendation.

Sincerely,

William A. Friedl  
Advisory Council Chair  
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS

cc: Naomi McIntosh, Sanctuary Superintendent, HI Humpback Whale NMS (NOAA)  
Jeffrey Walters, Ph.D., Sanctuary Co-Manager, HI Humpback Whale NMS (Hawaii DLNR, DAR)



LINDA LINGLE  
Governor



State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1425 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO  
Deputy to the Chairperson

April 11, 2008

Mr. William A. Friedl  
Advisory Council Chair  
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS  
6600 Kalanianaʻole Highway, Suite 301  
Honolulu, HI 96825

Dear Mr. Friedl:

Thank you for your letter of April 3, 2008 in which you encouraged the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to fill the vacant Aquaculture Development Program Manager as soon as possible. We intend to do so. For the past several months, HDOA has been working with the Department of Human Resources Development (DHRD) to update the position description and responsibilities of the manager position. We felt that the update was necessary as the description of the qualifications and responsibilities of the position had not been changed since 1982 and did not reflect the current needs of the industry.

We have completed the update and have been informed that DHRD will begin advertising the position vacancy in early May. If you know of any potential candidates, please ask them to check the local newspapers in the first week of May or they can be referred to DHRD's website at <http://hawaii.gov/hrd/>. If you are agreeable, and are willing to provide us with your email address, we will add your name to our list of organizations to be contacted when the vacancy notice appears.

Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra Lee Kunimoto", is written over a horizontal line.

Sandra Lee Kunimoto, Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture

**Blue Seas, Green Communities Working Group**  
**Teri Leicher**

**HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE**  
*National Marine Sanctuary*

*Blue Seas, Green Communities Initiative*



*Our Promise*  
To protect our sanctuary resources and expand our stewardship efforts in order to contribute to the greening of our sanctuary community.

*Acting Now*  
The sanctuary will purchase biodegradable "green" products from local green vendors for office use and use at Council meetings (food and drink containers, paper, bags) when possible.

The sanctuary will recycle all items possible based on availability by island.

*Proposed Projects Focusing on Education and Community Change*  
Support water quality awareness  
~ conduct educational water quality testing including a "snapshot day" with partners  
~ participate in county storm drain stenciling projects  
~ encourage planting of appropriate Native Hawaiian plants and other species along the shoreline


Support the greening of Hawai'i businesses  
~ provide information that simplifies the going green process  
~ sponsor annual green business award

Support the greening of vessels operating in the sanctuary and throughout Hawai'i  
~ provide accurate information on biodiesel conversion  
~ support additional pump-out facilities  
~ support use of green products on-board vessels

*Proposed Products*  
Information sheets on appropriate topics available online (vendor list, plant list, biodiesel information, etc.)

Displays promoting community action

Website section focusing on initiative



**The Blue Seas, Green Communities Initiative is a project of the National Marine Sanctuaries System.**  
**This effort is a partnership project between Advisory Council members and staff.**